AN

Eulogy

ON THE

LIFE, CHARACTER AND SERVICES

OF

Brother George Washington,

Deceased.—Pronounced before

THE FRATERNITY OF

Free and Accepted Masons,

BY REQUEST OF THE **Grand Lodge,**

At the OLD SOUTH Meeting-House, BOSTON,

ON TUESDAY, FEB. 11, 1800.

Being the Day set apart by them to pay FUNERAL HONORS to their deceased BROTHER.

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY BIGELOW.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Two ADDRESSES to the Deceased, when PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, and his ANSWERS: *Together with*—THE LETTER OF CONDOLENCE of the GRAND LODGE to Mrs. WASHINGTON, and her ANSWER.

☞ The *cassia* shall forever bloom o'er his head; for he hath gone down cloudless in the *West*, "ripe in years and full of glory."

Boston.

Printed by I. THOMAS and E. T. ANDREWS, No. 45, NEWBURY-STREET.

At a Meeting of the COMMITTEE *of the* GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, *at Concert Hall, in* Boſton, *February* 12, *A. D.* 1800.

VOTED, That our Right Worſhipful Brethren, PAUL REVERE, JOSIAH BARTLETT, and JOSEPH LAUGHTON, be appointed to wait on our Honourable Brother, TIMOTHY BIGELOW, Eſquire, with the thanks of the Grand Lodge for the chaſte and appropriate Eulogy delivered by him on the 11th inſtant, before the moſt numerous and reſpectable aſſembly of the Fraternity ever convened in this Commonwealth, in diſplay of the Sublime Virtues and unequalled Labours of that Pillar of the Inſtitution, and Ornament of Humanity, our late Illuſtrious Brother, GEORGE WASHINGTON; and to requeſt a copy for the preſs.

Atteſt: DANIEL OLIVER, *Grand Secretary.*

To the COMMITTEE *of the* GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, *at Concert Hall, in* Boſton, *February* 12, 1800.

BROTHERS,

THE Eulogy, delivered by me yeſterday, having been written at your deſire, cuſtom, in ſome meaſure, renders it a duty to yield the copy requeſted for publication. Impreſſed with a grateful ſenſe of the honour conferred on me by your approbation, I am your obliged Brother,

TIMOTHY BIGELOW.

BOSTON, *February* 12, A.L. 5800.

BRETHREN OF THE MASONIC FRATERNITY, AND
FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THIS RESPECTABLE AUDIENCE,

THOUGH ſilence be juſtly conſidered the language of grief, yet it is equivocal. Hypocriſy or indifference may aſſume it. On great occaſions, therefore, it becomes a duty to vindicate our feelings, though it be impoſſible fully to expreſs them. Highly laudable then is the conduct of our generous nation, at the preſent mournful criſis. While all claſſes of our fellow-citizens, obedient to the injunctions, and imitating the example of Congreſs, are pouring forth their ſorrows, and recounting the virtues of the deceaſed WASHINGTON; while the great and good of other nations are mingling their regrets with the lamentations of his afflicted countrymen—ſhall the Maſonic Fraternity be ſilent? Suppreſs their grief they cannot; and ſhall they attempt to conceal it? No, my Brethren, he had a double claim to our

attachment;

attachment; and we will dwell on his memory with peculiar affection. If our departed Brother yet takes an intereſt in what paſſes upon earth; if his bleſt ſhade ſtill hovers over the country which he protected and loved, may we not hope that our tribute of reſpect will be acceptable; that our united plaudit may even touch his immortal ſoul with pleaſure? A hope like this would ſoften our pangs, and dart a ray of comfort through the gloom of affliction which ſurrounds us. But ah, how unlike are our preſent emotions at beſt, to thoſe we have been wont to indulge on the returns of this anniverſary! Long have we been accuſtomed to hail it with joy, and regard it as the era of Heaven's peculiar favour to our country. Blind to futurity, we have fondly hoped that he would yet continue many years; that he would long defend us with his ſword, and bleſs us with his counſels; that he would glide gently down the declivity of life, majeſtic as ſome mighty river, and late, very late, ſink in the ocean of eternity. So long ſhall we deplore his apparently untimely departure. So long will this returning day call forth the mingled emotions of joy and mourning. But future times will again regard it as auſpicious. Our remoteſt poſterity, inheriting our freedom and independence, and that happy Conſtitution which alone can ſecure them, will never be unmindful of the MASTER, who preſided at the building of the fair fabric of political glory, or forget that on this day WASHINGTON was born.

WHEN we ſee a whole nation of freemen in tears, diſconſolate for the death of a fellow-citizen, what words can ſwell his panegyric? Indeed, the people

of

of the United States exhibit a ſpectacle that is ſcarcely to be paralleled in the annals of mankind. Nations, it is true, have often aſſumed the garb of ſorrow, and pompouſly diſplayed the emblems of grief for the death of Emperors or Kings. But it was when obedience, perhaps reluctant, was yielded to the orders of a ſucceſſor; or when, for reaſons of State, mourning was eſtabliſhed by laws. Under ſuch circumſtances, appearances may be deceptive: But, on our happy ſhores, we fear no tyrant frown; we need nothing extraneous to prompt our ſighs; our ſorrows are the ſpontaneous effuſion of grateful hearts; they demonſtrate our reſpect to be ſincere; and are ſcarce leſs honourable to the nation, than to the memory of him whoſe death they deplore. Still more ſtriking is another view of this intereſting ſcene. Rarely has the world done juſtice to the merit of the great, while living: It has often ungenerouſly perſecuted its beſt benefactors, or ſuffered them to pine in the gloom of neglect. SOCRATES, though a luminary to his own and future times, in ſcience and in virtue, was condemned by his infatuated countrymen to death. BELISARIUS, who conquered a kingdom for his maſter, was ſuffered ignominiouſly to beg his bread.* COLUMBUS, who gave a new world to mankind, was loaded with chains, and purſued with inſatiate rancour to his grave. Americans are more juſt: While the great WASHINGTON was yet alive, they knew how to

* Though the truth of this anecdote be queſtioned by writers of eminence, it is nevertheleſs ſupported by good authorities of ancient date; and it is agreed by all that Beliſarius was at one time unjuſtly deprived both of his honours and eſtates.

to appreciate the mighty bleſſing. Let us exult in the remembrance that they long ſince hailed him the FIRST OF MEN; that they twice inveſted him with the chief command of their armies; that with their unanimous ſuffrages they twice raiſed him to the dignity of Supreme Magiſtracy; that their united acclamations and fervent bleſſings followed him in his repeated retirement from office; that he lived in honour, and died in glory. Yes, they even claim from his family a right to ſhare their afflictions; with them to mourn their deceaſed Father, to plant the cypreſs on his grave, and water it with their tears. Heaven ſurely approves this conduct: Heaven will continue to diſtinguiſh a people duly ſenſible of their bleſſings.

VOLUMINOUS would be a detail of all the meritorious actions, or even of the great achievements of our departed friend. To recount his heroic deeds, would be but to recite the hiſtory of his country, while he was in the field; would be but to repeat what thouſands have already told, what many of you, my auditors, have perſonally witneſſed, what even his vanquiſhed enemies have publiſhed to the world. O that we could analyze his mighty mind; that we could aſcertain the elements of this ſplendid luminary in the moral world; that we could with unerring eye trace on the intellectual map the path which he purſued to immortal happineſs and fame!

IT has not unfrequently happened, that the poſſeſſion of a ſingle eſtimable talent in a high degree has rendered an individual an object of admiration to mankind. The military proweſs of Alexander,

beſides

beſides ſubjecting the world to his dominion, procured him the title of *Great;* and in the opinion of a ſuperſtitious age, enrolled him among the gods. SOLON and LYCURGUS acquired immortal renown for their wiſdom as legiſlators. Nobility was conſidered a poor reward for CHATHAM's merit as a ſtateſman. SULLY has been juſtly celebrated for cultivating the arts of peace. Theſe talents all centered in our great Countryman, without their kindred vices, raſhneſs, ſeverity, pride or ſupineneſs.

JUDGING the conduct of others by the inadequate ſtandard formed in their own narrow minds, there were not wanting thoſe, who, at one time, dared even to queſtion his ability for the command of our revolutionary army. The *Fabian* policy which induced him to avoid a deciſive engagement with the invading enemy, at that time drew upon him an ill-judged imputation of timidity and indeciſion. But the illuſion was tranſitory. It was ſoon perceived that the error was in the optics of his accuſers; that the miſt of ignorance which had enveloped them, had never obſcured the ſunſhine of intelligence which conſtantly beamed on him. This very conduct is now univerſally acknowledged to be among the moſt deciſive proofs of his greatneſs; without which, the iſſue of the conteſt, if not ruinous to our country, would at beſt have been extremely problematical. His penetration taught him that his countrymen were daily becoming more formidable, by experience in diſcipline and the duties of the camp; by habits of danger and an increaſing knowledge of the art of war;

while none of theſe advantages attached to their enemies. Remote from the ſource of ſupplies, their ſubſiſtence was precarious; and the waſte of troops, neceſſarily occaſioned by the caſualties of war, was repaired with difficulty. To them, therefore, delay was defeat. Regardleſs of the miſtaken or invidious ſuggeſtions which his prudence might draw upon him, he diſcerned the path of ſafety for his country, and ſteadily purſued it. It is ſtrange that at that period his courage or his conduct could have been diſtruſted. Previous to that, at a time when the clouds of deſpondency overſpread our hemiſphere with their deepeſt ſhade, when deſpair had almoſt loſt her energy, he had in perſon, with a handful of troops, gallantly ſurpriſed, defeated, and captured a numerous enemy at Trenton; and, eluding the vigilance of an army ſufficiently powerful to have cruſhed him, again aſtoniſhed his adverſaries by the brilliant victory at Princeton. On that memorable occaſion, he at one moment exhibited a ſpectacle anxiouſly intereſting to his companions in arms. From the neceſſity of rallying a diſordered part of his troops, he intrepidly placed himſelf in their front, and led them on to the charge. More eager to repair their diſgrace, than attentive to the peril of his perſonal ſituation, they raſhly renewed the engagement while he was at their head; and thus he was for ſome time expoſed to the fire of both the contending armies.

But whatever ungenerous ſurmiſes might at any time have been indulged by the heedleſs or envious, the voice of murmuring had been ſilenced before

fore the victory at Monmouth. After that event, he was the object of uninterrupted confidence to his country, and of terror to her foes; till, by annihilating the power of the invaders by the ſplendid reduction of Yorktown, he put a glorious period to the war; and the admiring world pronounced his character as a General conſummate!

HAVING finiſhed his military career, and entered on the tranquil ſcenes of retirement, for which he had a peculiar fondneſs, it ſeemed generally to be thought that his public life was finiſhed. As yet, however, he had executed but in part Heaven's high commiſſion. Few, perhaps, had hitherto perceived in him that univerſality of mind, which has enabled him ſucceſſively to adorn every ſtation he has filled. Modeſt and unaſſuming in his deportment, he never indulged in a pompous diſplay of talents unimportant to the duties before him; but unfolding them as exigencies required, he was always equal to the occaſion. When the deſerved partiality of the electors in his native State delegated him to the General Convention, and the reſpect of that body placed him in their chair, he there diſcovered the qualities of a great Legiſlator, and eminently contributed to the production of that inſtrument, which is juſtly conſidered a model of political wiſdom, and which, we truſt, will long ſecure that Liberty which his valour had achieved.

As a ſtateſman he was yet untried. But gratitude for his ſervices, reſpect for his character, and confidence in his integrity, impelled his fellow-

citizens,

citizens, with one conſent, to elevate him to the dignity of Preſident. As if this had been his peculiar province, he here ſhone with unrivalled luſtre. His adminiſtration was a ſatire on thoſe who are born to rule. Making the general good the ſole object of his purſuit, and carefully diſtinguiſhing the attention which was due from him as an individual to the claims of relation and friendſhip, from the duties he owed to the public, he never yielded to the influence of private partiality, nor ſtooped to the low policy of aggrandizing his family by the gifts of office. He beſtowed employments on thoſe only who added to integrity the qualities neceſſary to diſcharge them. Patient in inveſtigation, and cautious in reſearch, he formed his reſolutions with deliberation, and executed them with deciſion. Conſcious of the purity of his motives, and ſatisfied with the propriety of his determinations; duly eſtimating alſo the ſacred duty of maintaining the conſtitutional rights of his office, he was not to be ſoothed into diſhonourable compliance by the blandiſhments of flattery, nor diverted from his purpoſes by the terror of numbers, or the impoſing weight of public character. When a revolution, unprecedented in its kind, had involved the European world in confuſion, and the flame of war was ſpreading into other quarters of the globe, neither the inſidious attempts of the emiſſaries of France, nor the treacherous arts of her American adherents, could induce him to hazard our quiet. Though himſelf a ſoldier, and equal to the emergencies of war, he perceived not only that the true intereſts of his country,

try, but juſtice and humanity enjoined a continuance of peace. He therefore wiſely adjuſted the miſunderſtandings which threatened our tranquillity, and reſolved on a ſtrict neutrality. Our own experience, and the events which have ſince tranſpired in other countries, have fully juſtified the meaſure. Yet, ſtrange to tell, diſappointed faction deſpairing of ſucceſs in an impeachment of his diſcernment or underſtanding, has dared here to arraign the purity of his motives. Circumſtances ſeem to have placed him beyond the reach of ſuſpicion. His wealth was more than ſufficient for all the purpoſes of ſplendid enjoyment; he had no poſterity to inherit hereditary honours; and he was ſurely too wiſe not to know that a crown would tarniſh his glory; that his own reputation was inſeparably connected with the proſperity of his country; that his fame would mount no higher than her Eagle could ſoar. What more than he poſſeſſed, could ambition pant for? What further had the world to beſtow? Where then are theſe accuſers, theſe ſelf-imagined models of perfection, who can ſhow us where WASHINGTON was wrong, where they would have conducted with more wiſdom and integrity? Do they too join the general acclamations, or are they ſilent? If there are thoſe upon earth who renounce all pretenſions to morality, who diſclaim the obligations of gratitude, who dare even refuſe to aſcribe glory to GOD, (and we have too much evidence of the melancholy fact) can a mortal expect juſtice from them? But how tranſcendent muſt be that greatneſs which either extorts applauſe from its enemies, or awes them into ſilence!

About to relinquish the toils of his arduous station, and retire once more to that domestic repose which he had left with reluctance, and which his declining years now seemed to require, he could not close his public life without an act peculiarly appropriate to his character, and which fully demonstrates that ardent attachment to his country which governed all his conduct. His farewell advice discloses an intimate knowledge of the internal concerns, foreign relations, present and future interests of the United States, sufficient of itself to have entitled its author to fame. But when it is considered as the result of an intelligence adequate to the subject, as the fruit of personal experience matured by profound meditation, and in which no motive could have operated but the welfare and glory of the nation, we may safely pronounce it an oracle of political truth; a palladium, which, while carefully preserved, will perpetuate our Union and Independence; an amulet, which, if constantly improved, will render the body politic invulnerable, we might almost say immortal.

In WASHINGTON occurred a union rarely to be found, of greatness and goodness. Courage, wisdom, and magnanimity, those eminent qualities, which embrace the whole community in their operation, were not those only which distinguished his character. He was equally remarkable for the less splendid, though not less amiable virtues, which more immediately respected himself, his family, and friends. However the abundance of his means, or his long and familiar intercourse

with

with the world might have expoſed him to temptation, he preſerved his morals not only pure, but even unſullied by the breath of ſuſpicion. However the applauſe of mankind, and the wealth and honours which Fortune, no longer blind, beſtowed on him with a liberal hand, might have attached him to the world, he never forgot that he was mortal and deſtined to another ſtate of exiſtence. In him religion was a ſteady principle of action. It not only taught him fortitude in danger, and patience under misfortunes, but inſtructed him in the yet harder leſſon of moderation, of even humility in the full ſwell of proſperity. How often does hiſtory inform us of commanders, tranſported with the tide of ſucceſs, and grown giddy in its eddies, forgetting their dependence, and arrogating even divine honours! As a counterpart to this, our annals may record the concluding paſſage of the general orders, publiſhed on the ſurrender of Yorktown. "Divine ſervice ſhall be performed "to-morrow, in the different brigades and di-"viſions. The Commander in Chief recom-"mends, that all the troops that are not upon "duty, do aſſiſt at it with a ſerious deportment, "and that ſenſibility of heart which the recollec-"tion of the ſurprizing and particular interpoſi-"tion of Providence in our favour, claims."

That WASHINGTON was affectionate and endearing in his conjugal relation, the anguiſh of his widowed wife ſufficiently evinces; and no language can do ſo much juſtice to her ſenſibility, as her own affecting anſwer to the condolence of Congreſs, and her more recent return of thanks for

thoſe

thoſe expreſſions of ſympathy, which you, my reſpected Brethren, thought it your duty to communicate to her.* That he was compaſſionate and humane, is honourably told by the tears of his diſconſolate domeſtics. That he was benevolent, his emancipated ſlaves will long remember, and even their poſterity acknowledge with gratitude. How amiable, how conſiſtent is the character of this illuſtrious man! Himſelf the champion of political freedom, he diſdained to hold his fellow-creatures in abject domeſtic ſervitude. An advocate for mild and equal laws, he diſclaimed the right of unlimited control over the actions of others. Not ſatisfied with barely reſtoring to them that freedom, of which, in common with their countrymen, a cruel policy had deprived them, but yielding to the claims of juſtice, though unaided by law, he gave them in a freehold the hire that had not been ſtipulated, and bleſt them at once with competency and independence. Highly honourable would it be to our fellow-citizens in the South, if this magnanimous example ſhould have its proper effect; if, in their treatment of the wretches ſubjected to their power, they would emulate the benevolence of WASHINGTON; if, obedient like him to the voice of humanity, juſtice and religion, they would abandon the ſavage claim of holding human beings in ſlavery, and repeal every ſtatute in their code which countenances a principle ſo derogatory to the laws of Freemen.

HAVING already contemplated ſuch a variety of diſtinguiſhing features in this great and amiable character,

* See Appendix.

character, does it ſtill admit of addition? Is there room in the portrait for another trace of the faithful pencil, that will increaſe its beauty? Yes, my Brethren, to us another and no leſs intereſting view remains. Animated with a generous philanthropy, our deceaſed Brother early ſought admiſſion into our ancient and honourable fraternity, at once to enable him to cheriſh with advantage this heavenly principle, and enlarge the ſphere of its operation. He cultivated our art with ſedulous attention, and never loſt an opportunity of advancing the intereſt or promoting the honour of the *Craft*. While Commander in Chief of the American revolutionary army, he countenanced the eſtabliſhment and encouraged the labours of a travelling Lodge among the military. He wiſely conſidered it as a ſchool of urbanity, well calculated to diſſeminate thoſe mild virtues of the heart, ſo ornamental to the human character, and ſo peculiarly uſeful to correct the ferocity of ſoldiers, and alleviate the miſeries of war. The cares of his high office engroſſed too much of his time to admit of his engaging in the duties of the chair; yet he found frequent opportunities to viſit the Lodge, and thought it no derogation from his dignity there to ſtand on a *level* with the Brethren. True to our principles on all occaſions, an incident once occurred which enabled him to diſplay their influence to his foes. A body of American troops, in ſome ſucceſsful rencounter with the enemy, poſſeſſed themſelves, among other booty, of the jewels and furniture of a Britiſh travelling Lodge of Maſons. This property was directed by the Commander in

Chief to be returned under a flag of truce to its former proprietors, accompanied with a meſſage, purporting that the Americans did not make war upon inſtitutions of benevolence.

Of his attachment to our order in general, you, my reſpected Brethren of the Moſt Worſhipful Grand Lodge of this Commonwealth, have had perſonal knowledge. His anſwers to your repeated addreſſes, breathe throughout the ſpirit of brotherly love; and his affectionate return of thanks for the Book of Conſtitutions, which you preſented him, and for the honour, as he was pleaſed to conſider it, which you did him in the dedication, muſt be evidence highly ſatisfactory of the reſpectful eſtimation in which he held you. The information received from our Brethren, who had the happineſs to be members of the Lodge over which he preſided many years, and of which he died the Maſter, furniſhes abundant proof of his perſevering zeal for the proſperity of the inſtitution. Conſtant and punctual in his attendance, ſcrupulous in his obſervance of the regulations of the Lodge, and ſolicitous at all times to communicate light and inſtruction, he diſcharged the duties of the chair with uncommon dignity and intelligence in all the myſteries of our art. Nothing can more highly conduce to the proſperity and honour of Maſonry, than a ſucceſsful imitation of this bright example. It cannot fail of its effect upon our Brethren in its immediate neighbourhood in the ſouth; they will beautify their column. And ſhall we be outdone in zeal? Placed geographically in the eaſt, in a quarter of the Union

from

from which the nation has been accuſtomed to learn wiſdom, it ſhould be our peculiar care to diffuſe light through the temple of Maſonry. As it is known that we ſhared largely in the eſteem and affection of our deceaſed Brother, it is eaſy to perceive that our good conduct will itſelf be an encomium on his memory. We ſee before us, among the ſad emblems of mortality, not only the ſword which in this neighbourhood he drew in defence of his country, but alſo the very attire which he has often worn as a Maſon. How devoutly is it to be wiſhed, that theſe ſtriking memorials may ſtimulate us to a noble emulation; that, like the mantle of Elijah, they may inſpire us with an unalterable attachment to virtue and benevolence! This day witneſſes to the world in what veneration we hold the memory of departed greatneſs: Let not the ſolemnity be without its appropriate effect upon ourſelves. While with funeral pomp and Maſonic honours, we celebrate the obſequies of our deceaſed Brother, while we bend with anguiſh over the urn which contains a part of what was mortal in him,* let us like him remember, that we are animated with a heavenly flame, which the chill damps of death cannot extinguiſh; like him reſolve to *ſquare* our actions by the *rules* of *rectitude*, perſevere in the *line* of our duty, and reſtrain our paſſions within the *compaſs* of propriety, knowing that the *all-ſeeing Eye* of our *Supreme Grand Maſter* above, continually obſerves us: That when we ſhall have performed the *taſk* aſſigned us here, we may

* A lock of General WASHINGTON's hair was depoſited in the urn borne in the Maſonic funeral proceſſion on this occaſion. See Appendix.

may like him be *called from our work to the refreſhments* which alone can ſatisfy our immortal deſires: That when we put off this earthly *cloathing*, we may be arrayed with the garments of glory, put on the *jewels* of light, and ſhine forever in the ſublime *arch* above.

APPENDIX.

An Addreſs

Of the GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, *for the Commonwealth of* MASSACHUSETTS, *to their Honoured and Illuſtrious Brother* GEORGE WASHINGTON.

WHILST the hiſtorian is deſcribing the career of your glory, and the inhabitants of our extenſive empire are made happy in your unexampled exertions: while ſome celebrate the HERO, ſo diſtinguiſhed in liberating United America; and others, the PATRIOT who preſides over her councils—a BAND OF BROTHERS, having always joined the acclamations of their countrymen, now teſtify their reſpect for thoſe milder virtues which have ever graced the MAN.

TAUGHT by the precepts of our Society, that all its members *ſtand upon a level*, we venture to aſſume this ſtation, and to approach you with that freedom which diminiſhes our diffidence without leſſening our reſpect.

DESIROUS to enlarge the boundaries of ſocial happineſs, and to vindicate the ceremonies of their inſtitution, this Grand Lodge have publiſhed a *Book of Conſtitutions*, (and a copy for your acceptance accompanies this) which, by diſcovering the principles that actuate, will ſpeak the eulogy of the Society; though they fervently wiſh the conduct of its members may prove its higher commendation.

CONVINCED of his attachment to its cauſe, and readineſs to encourage its benevolent deſigns, they have taken the liberty to dedicate this work to ONE, the qualities of whoſe heart, and the actions of whoſe life, have contributed to improve perſonal virtue, and extend throughout the world

the

the moſt endearing cordialities; and they humbly hope he will pardon this freedom, and accept the tribute of their eſteem and homage.

MAY the SUPREME ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE protect and bleſs you, give you length of days and increaſe of felicity in this world, and then receive you to the harmonious and exalted ſociety in heaven.

(Signed)

JOHN CUTLER, *Grand Maſter.*
JOSIAH BARTLETT, } *Grand Wardens.*
MUNGO MACKAY, }

BOSTON, December 27, A. D. 1792.

The Anſwer.

To the GRAND LODGE OF THE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, *for the Commonwealth of* MASSACHUSETTS.

FLATTERING as it may be to the human mind, and truly honourable as it is, to receive from our fellow-citizens teſtimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare—it is not leſs pleaſing to know, that the milder virtues of the heart are highly reſpected by a Society, whoſe liberal principles are founded in the immutable laws of truth and juſtice.

To enlarge the ſphere of ſocial happineſs is worthy the benevolent deſign of a Maſonic Inſtitution; and it is moſt fervently to be wiſhed, that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as thoſe publications that diſcover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Maſonry is to promote the happineſs of the human race.

WHILE I beg your acceptance of my thanks for the "Book of Conſtitutions" which you have ſent me, and for the honour you have done me in the dedication, permit me

me to assure you that I feel all those emotions of gratitude which your affectionate address and cordial wishes are calculated to inspire. And I sincerely pray that the GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE may bless you here, and receive you hereafter in his immortal Temple.

(Signed)

G. WASHINGTON.

The EAST, *the* WEST, *and the* SOUTH, *of the* GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS *of the Commonwealth of* MASSACHUSETTS, *to their Most Worthy Brother* GEORGE WASHINGTON.

WISHING ever to be foremost in testimonials of respect and admiration for those virtues and services with which you have so long adorned and benefited our common country; and not the last nor least to regret the cessation of them in the public councils of the Union; your Brethren of the Grand Lodge embrace the earliest opportunity of greeting you in the calm retirement you have contemplated to yourself.

THOUGH, as *Citizens*, they lose you in the active labours of political life, they hope as *Masons* to find you in the pleasing sphere of fraternal engagement. From the cares of State, and the fatigues of public business, our institution opens a recess, affording all the relief of tranquillity, the harmony of peace, and the refreshment of pleasure: of these may you partake in all their purity and satisfaction; and we will assure ourselves that your attachment to this social plan will increase, and that, under the auspices of your encouragement, assistance, and patronage, the Craft will attain the highest ornament, perfection, and praise. And it is our ardent prayer, that when your light shall be

no

no more viſible in this Earthly Temple, you may be raiſed to the ALL-PERFECT LODGE above; be ſeated on the right of the SUPREME ARCHITECT of the Univerſe, and there receive the refreſhment your labours have merited.

IN behalf of the Grand Lodge, we ſubſcribe ourſelves, with the higheſt eſteem,

Your affectionate Brethren,

PAUL REVERE, *Grand Maſter.*
ISAIAH THOMAS, *Senior Grand Warden.*
JOSEPH LAUGHTON, *Junior Grand Warden.*
DANIEL OLIVER, *Grand Secretary.*

BOSTON, *March* 21, 1797.

To the GRAND LODGE *of* ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS *of the Commonwealth of* MASSACHUSETTS.

BROTHERS,

IT was not until theſe few days, that I have been favoured by the receipt of your affectionate addreſs, dated in Boſton the 21ſt of March.

FOR the favourable ſentiments you have been pleaſed to expreſs on the occaſion of my paſt ſervices, and for the regrets with which they are accompanied for the ceſſation of my public functions, I pray you to accept my beſt acknowledgments and gratitude.

No pleaſure, except that which reſults from a conſciouſneſs of having, to the utmoſt of my abilities, diſcharged the truſt which has been repoſed in me by my country, can equal the ſatisfaction I feel from the unequivocal proofs I continually receive of its approbation of my public conduct; and I beg you to be aſſured, that the evidence thereof, which is exhibited by the Grand Lodge of Maſſachuſetts, is not among the leaſt pleaſing or grateful to my feelings.

IN

In that retirement which declining years induced me to ſeek, and which repoſe, to a mind long employed in public concerns, rendered neceſſary, my wiſhes that bounteous Providence will continue to bleſs and preſerve our country in peace, and in the proſperity it has enjoyed, will be warm and ſincere; and my attachment to the Society of which we are Members, will diſpoſe me always to contribute my beſt endeavours to promote the honour and intereſt of the *Craft*.

For the prayer you offer in my behalf, I entreat you to accept the thanks of a grateful heart, with the aſſurance of my fraternal regard, and beſt wiſhes for the honour, happineſs and proſperity of all the members of the Grand Lodge of Maſſachuſetts.

G. WASHINGTON.

Boston, January 11, 1800.

Madam,

The Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Maſſachuſetts have deeply participated in the general grief of their fellow-citizens, on the melancholy occaſion of the death of their beloved Washington.

As Americans, they have lamented the loſs of the Chief who had led their armies to victory, and their country to glory; but as *Maſons*, they have wept the diſſolution of that endearing relation, by which they were enabled to call him *their Friend* and their Brother. They preſume not to offer you thoſe conſolations which might allevlate the weight of common ſorrows, for they are themſelves inconſolable. The object of this addreſs is, not to interrupt the ſacred offices of grief like your's; but, whilſt they are mingling tears with each other on the common calamity, to condole with you on the irreparable misfortune which you have individually experienced.

To their expreſſions of ſympathy on this ſolemn diſpenſation, the Grand Lodge have ſubjoined an order, that

a *Golden Urn* be prepared as a depoſit for a lock of hair, *an invaluable relique* of the Hero and the Patriot, whom their wiſhes would immortalize; and that it be preſerved with the jewels and regalia of the Society.

SHOULD this favour be granted, Madam, it will be cheriſhed as the moſt precious jewel in the cabinet of the Lodge, as the memory of his virtues will forever be in the hearts of its members.

We have the honour to be,
With the higheſt reſpect,
Your moſt obedient Servants,
JOHN WARREN,
PAUL REVERE,
JOSIAH BARTLETT.

Mrs. MARTHA WASHINGTON.

MOUNT VERNON, January 27, 1800.

GENTLEMEN,

MRS. WASHINGTON has received with ſenſibility your letter of the 11th inſt. encloſing a vote of the Grand Lodge of Maſſachuſetts, requeſting a *lock* of her deceaſed Huſband's *hair*, to be preſerved in a *Golden Urn*, with the jewels and regalia of the Grand Lodge.

IN complying with this requeſt, by ſending the lock of hair, which you will find encloſed, Mrs. WASHINGTON begs me to aſſure you, that ſhe views with gratitude the tributes of reſpect and affection paid to the memory of her dear deceaſed Huſband; and receives, with a feeling heart, the expreſſions of ſympathy contained in your letter.

With great reſpect and eſteem,
I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your moſt obedient Servant,
TOBIAS LEAR.

JOHN WARREN,
PAUL REVERE,
JOSIAH BARTLETT,
} *Paſt Grand Maſters.*